

13333 East Wyoming Place
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May 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-306) '99 MAY 19 P3:24
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

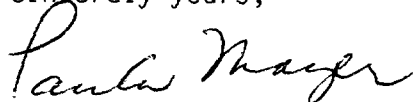
Gentlemen:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposal of your agency to eliminate all labeling requirements for irradiated food. Since even irradiation proponents fear that the current requirement scares off consumers from buying irradiated foodstuffs, it is clear that the public wants to be informed when their food supply is being altered. Without proper labeling, we lose our freedom to choose what we eat. We feel that labeling of food (meat, fruit, and vegetables) that has been irradiated is necessary: we have a right to make informed choices about the food we buy and eat.

The regulation requiring all irradiated food to be so labeled should definitely be continued in the future as the food industry will attempt to stock grocery shelves with more and more irradiated foodstuffs.

The FDA's original reason for labeling is still valid--irradiation is a process that can change the texture, taste, storage characteristics and nutrients of a food and should therefore be disclosed to avoid misleading the consumer.

Sincerely yours,



Paula Mayer



Dorothy Groteluschen

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